

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 00783 250750Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/066 W

-----110199 251240Z /45

R 250430Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3302
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV PINT PP
SUBJECT: SOMARE BACKS OFF ON LEADERSHIP CODE

REF: PORT MORESBY 390

1. SUMMARY: FACED WITH ALMOST CERTAIN DEFEAT ON HIS PROPOSED LEADERSHIP CODE, PRIME MINISTER SOMARE ANNOUNCED ON MAY 24 THAT HE HAD DECIDED NOT TO PUSH THE CODE AT THIS SESSION OF PARLIAMENT. DELAY ITSELF A DEFEAT FOR SOMARE WHO IS FACING, AS HE PUT IT, A PARLIAMENT IN A "VOLATILE STATE". GOVERNMENT NOT THREATENED BUT FACES DIFFICULT SESSION. END SUMMARY.

2. EVENING MAY 24 PRIME MINISTER SOMARE ANNOUNCED DECISION NOT TO INTRODUCE PROPOSED LEADERSHIP CODE AT CURRENT SESSION. DESCRIBING PARLIAMENT AS BEING IN A VOLATILE STATE, PM SAID TIME NOT PROPITIOUS FOR A REASONED DEBATE ON A FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE SUCH AS LEADERSHIP CODE. IN FACE SAVING GESTURE SOMARE SAID HE WOULD NAME "NON-POLITICAL" COMMITTEE TO ADVISE HIM ON NEW CODE AND ADDED THERE HAD BEEN
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"CONSTITUTIONAL UNCERTAINTIES" ABOUT PRECISE FORM OF SOME OF THE BILLS CONTAINING CODE.

3. LEADERSHIP CODE FACED ALMOST CERTAIN DEFEAT. GOVERNMENT COALITION PARTNER PPP ADAMENTLY OPPOSED. SOME PARTY LEADERS SO STATED PUBLICLY AND DEPUTY PM CHAN CRITICAL IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS. WE HEARD ALL PPP

MINISTERS HAD PLANNED TO ABSENT THEMSELVES WHEN
CODE CAME BEFORE PARLIAMENT. OPPOSITION LEADER OKUK
HAD ANNOUNCED OPPOSITION AS HAD SOME GOVERNMENT BACK-
BENCHERS.

4. SOMARE DOES FACE A TOUGH SESSION. OKUK PLANS THOROUGH
DEBATE ON WHAT HE TERMS GOVERNMENT'S MISHANDLING OF
RECENT UNIVERSITY TURMOIL, SOMARE BEING CRITICIZED FOR
HAVING SAID HE WOULD REHIRE PUBLIC SERVANT FIRED BY
OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION FOR MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE AND
PARLIAMENT HAS EVEN REACTED AGAINST GOVERNMENT'S ATTEMPT
TO PLAY DOWN PUSH BY SOME MEMBERS TO TRY TO OBTAIN WAR
REPARATIONS FROM AUSTRALIA, JAPAN AND U.S. WE DO NOT
FORESEE A SUCCESSFUL NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE BUT THERE WILL
BE MUCH MORE GIVE AND TAKE THAN IN PREVIOUS SESSIONS.
OLMSTED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATIVE BILLS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTM00783
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780220-1297
Format: TEL
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780519/aaaaaptu.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 42b3ba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PORT MORESBY 390
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2568433
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOMARE BACKS OFF ON LEADERSHIP CODE
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PP, (SOMARE, MICHAEL THOMAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/42b3ba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014